1 Claims

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3 1. Method for determining a variable that is characteristic
4   of a mass that rests on the seating area (2) of a seat
5   (1) with an estimated value of the variable that is
6   characteristic of the mass that is resting on the seating
7   area (2) being determined depending on at least one force
8   that acts on the seating area (2) and is detected by at
9   least one force sensor (9 – 12), with the estimated value
10   being determined to be reliable or unreliable depending
11   on the oscillation behavior of a measured signal (MS1 –
12   MS4) of the at least one force sensor (9 – 12).

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14 2. Method according to claim 1,
15   with the estimated value being determined to be reliable
16   or unreliable depending on a measure of the amplitude of
17   the oscillations of the measured signal (MS1 – MS4) of
18   the at least one force sensor (9 – 12).

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20 3. Method according to claim 2,
21   with the estimated value being determined to be reliable
22   or unreliable depending on a time duration of a
23   predetermined change in the mass of the amplitude of the
24   oscillation of the measured signal (MS1 – MS4) of the at
25   least one force sensor (9 – 12).

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27 4. Method according to one of the preceding claims,
28   with the measured signal (MS1 – MS4) of the force sensor
29   (9 – 12) being subjected to a Walsh transformation and
30   the estimated value being determined to be reliable or
31   unreliable depending on a measure for the sequential
32   content of the Walsh-transformed measured signal (MS1 –
33   MS4).

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2   5.   Method according to claim 4,

3   with the mass for the sequential content being formed by

4   adding the amplitude (A) of predetermined sequences (s)

5   of the Walsh-transformed measured signal (MS1 - MS4).

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7   6.   Method according to claim 5,

8   with the measured signals (MS1 - MS4) of several force

9   sensors (9 - 12) being subjected to the Walsh

10   transformation and from this a monitoring value (UW1 -

11   UW4) being determined for each measured signal (MS1 -

12   MS4) and the estimated value being determined to be

13   reliable or unreliable depending upon the monitoring

14   values (UW1 - UW4).

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16   7.   A device for determining a variable that is

17   characteristic of a mass that rests on a seating area (2)

18   of a seat (1), with means

19   -   that determine an estimated value of the variable

20   that is characteristic of the mass resting on the

21   seating area (2), and is dependent on at least one

22   force that acts on the seating area (2) and is

23   detected by a force sensor (9 - 12), and

24   -   the estimated value being determined to be reliable

25   or unreliable depending on the oscillation behavior

26   of the measured signal of the at least one force

27   sensor (9 - 12).